

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Steve Funk on 3/19/2009.

2. Details of Examiner's Amendment:

In the claims:

In claim 5, at line 3, "a switching circuit provided in said idling current source;" has been changed to -- a switching circuit operatively connected to said idling current source;--.

In claim 7, at line 3, "a switching circuit provided in said idling current source;" has been changed to -- a switching circuit operatively connected to said idling current source;--.

In claim 11, at line 3, "a switching circuit provided in said idling current source;" has been changed to -- a switching circuit operatively connected to said idling current source;--.

In claim 12, at line 3, "a switching circuit provided in said idling current source;" has been changed to -- a switching circuit operatively connected to said idling current source;--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-13 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 recite, inter alia, a buffer circuit having an idling current source arranged to supply a predetermined idling current to an output node of said current detection transistor, said buffer circuit arranged to equalize the output voltage of said first transistor with the voltage at said output node of said current detection transistor, and arranged to output a detection current that amounts to the sum of said proportional current and said idling current.

The art of record does not disclose the above limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify the art of record so as to include either of the above limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EMILY PHAM whose telephone number is (571)270-3046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (7:00AM - 6:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on (571) 272 - 2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2838

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jessica Han/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2838
March 2009

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